

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 184467

56

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O RBELL

APPROVED BY: S/S- O JHOGANSON

----- 021133

O 261831Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEHCR/CINCUSANVEUR IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 184467

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TUNIS FROM ROME DTD 16 JUL 1976

DTG O 161525Z JUL 1976 QTE

S E C R E T ROME 12001

EXDIS

DEPT PASS DOD/JCS AND ISA

DEPT PASS CINCUSNAVEUR, COMSIXTHFLT AND EUCOM (ALSO FOR POLADS)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, TU, LY, US

SUBJECT: TUNISIA URGES INCREASED U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE

REF: TUNIS 5177

1. REFTTEL SUGGESTS POSSIBILITY PROVISION U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT  
FOR AIR RECONNAISSANCE AS PART OF INCREASED U.S. SUPPORT FOR  
TUNISIA PRIOR TO AND DURING POSSIBLE FORTHCOMING CRISIS. AMONG  
SURVEILLANCE ASSETS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDER-  
TION MAY BE USN P-3'S BASED AT SIGONELLA, SICILY. WE STRONGLY

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RECOMMEND THAT THE USE OF NEITHER THESE NOR ANY OTHER AIRCRAFT

BASED IN ITALY BE CONTEMPLATED IN THAT CONTEXT.

2. EVEN UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY WOULD NOT LOOK WITH FAVOR UPON THE USE OF TENANT U.S. FORCES IN ANY WAY THAT WOULD PROVOKE LIBYA (OR ANY ARAB STATE FOR THAT MATTER). THOUGH THE GOI FORTERS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT QADHAFI, IT IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT UPON ARAB OIL (ABOUT 13 PERCENT FROM LIBYA IN 1975) AND BELIEVES THAT ITALIAN NATIONAL INTERESTS REQUIRE THAT MAINTAINING OF HARMONIOUS RELATIONS WITH THE RIPARIAN STATES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. MOREOVER, THESE ARE NOT "THE BEST OF CIRCUM-STATNCES". THE CURRENT ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE IS NOT THE BEST ENVIORNMENT IN WHICH TO FORCE THE GOI TO MAKE DIFFICULT POLITICAL CHOICES. THE OUTCOME IN OUR VIEW WULD BE TO PLACE IN JEOPARDY CONTINUED US OF THE MILITARY FACILITIES WE NOW ENJOY IN ITALY FOR PURPOSES BEYOND STRICTLY NATO FUCTIONS. VOLPE UNQTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, MILITARY BUILDUP, NAVAL FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TUNISIA URGES INCREASED U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINR, TU, LY, US  
**To:** CINCUSNAVEUR MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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